United Nations

Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Following the meeting of the Security Council held at the level of Heads of State and Government, a joint statement is adopted by the 15 members of the Council, which notes, among other things, the increased role of the United Nations in the field of peace-keeping. The members of the Council also pledge their commitment to international law and to the United Nations Charter and invite the Secretary-General to prepare by 1 July his analysis and recommendations on ways of strengthening and making more efficient the capacity of the Organization for preventive diplomacy, for peace-making and for peace-keeping.

+ Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in his opening remarks, indicates that news ways of preventing international disputes and inter-states confrontation need to be developed; the role of preventive diplomacy has to be emphasized, he notes.

+ Five Heads of State, seven Heads of Government, one King and two Foreign Ministers - all members of the Council - address this organ in an all-day debate at the Summit.

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At the conclusion of the Security Council Summit Meeting tonight, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, John Major, made a statement on behalf of the fifteen members of the Council.

In the statement, the members of the Council, who met for the first time today at the level of Heads of State and Government, note that they convene at a time of momentous change. They welcome the role that the United Nations has played under the Charter in progress towards settling long-standing regional disputes. However, the Council also recognizes that change has brought new risk for stability and security. All Member States expect United Nations to play a central role at this crucial stage and stress the importance of strengthening and improving the Organization to increase its effectiveness.

Furthermore, the members of the Council reaffirm their commitment to the collective security system of the Charter and express their deep concern over

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acts of international terrorism. The need for the international community to deal effectively with all such acts was emphasized.

In the area of peace-making and peace-keeping, the 15 members of the Council invite the Secretary-General to prepare by 1 July 1992 his analysis and recommendations on ways of strengthening and making more efficient the capacity of the United Nations for preventive diplomacy, for peace-making and for peace-keeping.

The members of the Council further underline the need for all Member States to fulfil their obligations in relations to arms control and disarmament; to prevent the proliferation in all its aspects, including all weapons of mass destruction which constitute, in their opinion, a threat to international peace and security.

In conclusion, the members of the Security Council affirm their determination to build on the initiative of their meeting in order to secure positive advances in promoting international peace and security. They agree that the United Nations Secretary-General has a crucial role to play in that respect.

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In his opening statement to the Security Council Summit meeting this morning, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali indicated that there had hardly been a stage more critical in modern history. The revolution that is sweeping large part of the world derives its momentum and authenticity not from any outdated or recycled ideology, but from the primal need of peoples for freedom, for justice, for solidarity and for recognition of their identities, he said. The contours of the global order to which it will lead are not yet clearly conceivable. However, he said, several lessons are already being driven home.

First, democratization at the national level dictates a corresponding process at the global level. At both levels it aims at the rule of law. For national societies, said the Secretary-General, democratic means strengthening the institutions of popular participation and consent, political pluralism and the defense of human rights, including those of minorities. For global society, he went on saying, it means the democratization of international relations and the participation of all States in developing new norms of international life.

In addition to the democratization process, said Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, new ways of preventing international disputes and inter-states confrontation need to be developed. Nations are too interdependent, national frontiers are two porous and transnational realities too dangerous to permit egocentric isolationism. Collective security can be based only on collective confidence and good faith. With all the convulsions in global society,

continued the Secretary-General, only one power is left that can impose order on incipient chaos. It is a power of principles transcending changing perceptions of expendiency.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali also stressed that a new strategy has to be adopted by the United Nations to address the individual concerns of ethnic and cultural communities. The role of preventive diplomacy has been legitimately emphasized, he said, to identify potential areas of conflict, to provide good offices and to try and resolve crisis before they degenerate into conflicts. That requires a sophisticated communication network, observation capabilites and new financial resources. We must obtain the agreement of the State in crisis, as well as that of the communities that revolt; we must reinvent new federative formulas for the future.

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Opening this morning debate, François Mitterrand, President of France, said that the world would have to invent new forms of solidarity. Instruments had to be adopted to tackle the problems universally. He called on all States to sign a chemical weapons Treaty in Paris by the end of the year. He supported the efforts of Presidents Bush and Yeltsin to reduce their countries' armaments.

The "might is right" principle had to be abandoned and the role of the Charter strengthened in peace-keeping and peace-making, he said. France was willing to make available to United Nations, a force of 1,000 men who could be deployed within one week. Such a measure would put the Military Staff Committee into more active operation and support the role of the United Nations.

The President of France also insisted that many countries today were bogged down economically and required international assistance, private investment, improved trade and cheaper credit. The recurrent crises in some developing countries should be addressed. He hoped there would be a world summit on social development in order to deal with a wide range of problems.

President Rodrigo Borja-Cevallos of Ecuador said that the United Nations had been established as an answer to the deeply felt need for peace and security in the world. The international community was far from having completely won the quest for peace and there were still aggressive intentions which constituted threats to peace, like racial and religious fanaticism, "out-of-control" nationalism and xenophobia.

President Borja-Cevallos welcomed the initiative of President Mitterand of France to convene an international summit on social development. Human development, he said, implied more than just economic development. It concerned the quality of life and whether the earth's inhabitants were benefiting from progress, whether their lives were being prolonged or their personal security and political freedom guaranteed.

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King Hassan II of Morocco said that since the end of the cold war, the responsibilities of the United Nations had broadened. His country supported the idea of strengthening and reforming the organs of the United Nations and hoped that precise and concrete proposals would be made to that effect as soon as possible.

The King of Morocco also drew attention to the worsening of the socio-economic situation in Africa and urged the international community to take urgent steps to help stabilize Africa.

Speaking about the plight of the Palestinian people, King Hassan said that the persistence of that problem demonstrated the inability of the international community to mobilize the will to solve it. Morocco had been one of the first countries to encourage dialogue among the parties to the conflict and hoped the current peace process would be completed, leading to a solution that would be acceptable to all.

In his statement, Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation, indicated his country's belief that the time had come to considerably reduce the presence of means of destruction on our planet. Today, he said, they were real opportunities for implementing deep cuts in strategic offensive arms and tactical nuclear weapons; moving towards significant limitations on nuclear testing and even towards its complete cessation; making ABM defences less complicated and costly; considerably reducing conventional armaments and armed forces; ensuring practical implementation of international agreement on the prohibition of chemical and bacteriological weapons, and enhancing the reliability of barriers to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Russia, indicated its President, also believed that the time had come to consider creating a global system for protection of the world community. It could be based, he said, on a reorientation of the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) to make use of high technology developed in the Russia's defense complex.

Mr. Yeltsin also pointed out that Russia was fully aware of its responsibility for making the Commonwealth of Independent States a tangible factor of stability in the world. This applied above all to nuclear forces, he said. The participating States of the Commonwealth shared the view that nuclear weapons were an integral part of the strategic forces of the Commonwealth under a single command and unified control.

Finally, Mr. Yeltsin reiterated the willingness of the Russian diplomacy to contribute "in every possible way to the final settlement of conflicts in various regions of the world". Use would be made of the effective role of the United Nations and the Security Council and the Russian Federation would take part in the search for lasting solutions to the Yugoslav and Afghan problems and for a normalization of the situation in the Near and Middle East, and in Cambodia and other regions, concluded Mr. Yeltsin.

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President George Bush of the United States said that democracy, human rights and the rule of law were the building blocks of peace and freedom. True democracy, said Mr. Bush, meant more than simply the rule of the majority. It meant irrevocable commitment to the democracy principles. It meant equal rights for the minorities. And above all, it meant the sanctity of even a single individual against the unjust power of the State.

The President of the United States also indicated that his Government was prepared to move forward on mutual arms reductions. This important issue was going to be considered again tomorrow, at his meeting with President Yeltsin of the Russian Federation, he said.

However, he went on saying, the danger of proliferation remained. Although the threat of global nuclear war was more distant than at any time in the nuclear era, he said, the specter of mass destruction remained all too real, specially if some nations continued to push to acquire weapons of mass destructions and the means to deliver them. It was necessary to focus on Iraq's capability to build or maintain weapons of mass destruction, said President Bush. States sponsoring terrorism must be dealt with, if necessary, by sanctions or stronger measures, to compel them to observe international standards of behaviour.

Today, concluded Mr. Bush, we stand at another crossroad. Perhaps the first time since the creation of the United Nations, it was possible to look at the Organization's Charter as a living, breathing document. The mission was to make it strong and sturdy and to increase dedication and cooperation.

Calling for the basic principles of the United Nations to be brought to their full democratic realization, Carlos Andres Perez, the President of Venezuela, said the Security Council and the General Assembly should be reformed to reflect the political realities of today, rather than those of 1945. He said the General Assembly bodies should be stripped of their bureaucratic traits and directed to contribute to a North-South dialogue, and the Secretariat strengthened and provided with modern management.

The regional organizations should be strengthened in a functional relation with the United Nations, as part of its task of maintaining peace, he continued. The regional conflicts should be addressed with a completely different methodology from that in the past which had reflected the hegemonies and zones of influence of the prevailing powers.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in June, he said, could be the first scenario of the democratization of international relations and of the role that relations between North and South should play from now on. He pointed out that Venezuela had also proposed an international convention to challenge the traffic of narcotics, and had sought to focus the attention of the international community on the "grave and persistent absurdity" of underdevelopment.

Peace-keeping, from its modest beginning, had become a universally accepted and indispensable tool, the Federal Chancellor of Austria, Franz Vranitzky, told the Summit meeting. Now there was a chance to give the United Nations a stronger role in the areas of conflict resolution and prevention.

Some of the recent crises had made clear that there was an urgent need for an early reaction to potential conflicts, he said. Preventative diplomacy by the Secretary-General and, where applicable, by the Security Council would have to be developed further. An early deployment of peacekeeping personnel, even at the request of only one party to a conflict, might help to contain a dispute and facilitate a process of negotiation and compromise before hostilities broke out.

Mr. Vranitzky said he saw a more active involvement in the areas of arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament as one of the most important future tasks of the Security Council. "This is not only a political priority of the first order, it also responds to the wishes of our peoples," he said.

The protection of human rights and the rights of ethnic minorities had had an important impact on the development of peaceful relations between States, Mr Vranitzky said. There was a direct connection between democratic processes within countries and the evolution of a political culture conducive to the peaceful settlement of disputes. Peace was most threatened when human rights were abolished, minorities persecuted and democratic processes gave way to totalitarian practice.

The Prime Minister of Belgium, Wilfried Martens, focused on three major tasks which could be implemented through the means of action at the Organization's disposal: cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the international regional organizations; extension of the powers of initiative and inquiry of the Secretary-General and the Security Council, and the greatest possible efficiency of peace-keeping operations. For Belgium, he stressed, it was essential that human rights be universally respected in the exercise of those activities.

Firstly, he said, the international regional organizations should be involved systematically in the Security Council's actions. In Central America they had already played an important role in the implementation of the various agreements which had finally restored peace in several countries in the region.

The second means of action was the power of the Security Council and the Secretary-General to take initatives, he said. In certain situations - as had been learnt with the recent crises in Kuwait, Liberia, Yugoslavia and Somalia - war had seemed the lesser evil or only way out. It was precisely because of the prevalence of war and the illegitimate use of force that the Organization now had such an historic role to play.

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The third issue, he continued, was the issue of peace-keeping operations, the most efficient means of actions for the Council in coordination with the Secretary-General. The Secretariat should now reorganize and streamline their management, a development necessitated by their success and increase in number in the past few years, and by the new scope those operations were to take on in the near future.

The Prime Minister of Cape Verde, Carlos Alberto Wahnon de Carvalho Veiga, said a strong Security Council was one whose decisions were based on thorough discussion and reflected the views of all its members. The Council's moral authority was bound to suffer whenever decisions were taken without exhaustive efforts to achieve consensus.

The role of peace-keeping operations should be strengthened, he said. Although such activities were ingeniously invented to fill the vacuum created by the United Nations' inability to implement the collective security system, they had gained a life of their own and become an indispensable tool in the hands of the Security Council. Without interfering with the sovereignty of countries, the deployment of peace-keeping forces could play a decisive role in resolving national conflicts whenever a government was not really in control and chaos had set in.

The Prime Minister of China, Li Peng, stated that in contrast to a turbulent Europe, the Asia-Pacific region enjoyed relative stability. The signing of the Paris Agreement had laid the foundation for the final settlement of the Cambodian conflict. Following their simultaneous participation in the United Nations, the North and South of Korea had signed the protocol on mutual non-agression and the joint declaration of the nuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Quite a few countries in the Asia-Pacific region had enjoyed a high economic growth rate, he said.

In this environment, said the Prime Minister, China intended to strengthen and develop its friendly and good neighbourly relations with the surrounding countries.

He said that the new international order should be established on the basis of the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression and non-intereference in each other's internal affairs. Also, he said, a new international order should include a new economic order since the ever-widening gap between the North and the South had become a destabilizing factor in international life. All nuclear-weapon States, he said, should undertake not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, or to use or threaten to use such weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-free zones. The nuclear weapons of the disintegrated Soviet Union should be placed under effective control, he said.

The Prime Minister of China concluded by saying that the United Nations should play a more active role in maintaining world peace and promoting development.

The Prime Minister of India, P.V. Narasimnha Rao, said the Charter was only as legitimate and secure as its underpinning by the collective will of the international community. Its interpretation and the actions of Security Council had to flow from a general consensus and not from the views of a few. "What was right and just must become transparent. It is as simple as that," he stated.

He said that the size of the Security Council must be expanded to allow for wider representation. It was also incumbent on the Council, he went on, that it anticipate all the consequences of its decisions. Some of them - economic sanctions for instance - could have a major impact on those they were least intended to affect, and for developing countries that could be catastrophic. Once the primary purpose of sanctions had been fulfilled, the Council should act decisively to alleviate the human suffering incurred.

His country shared the concern about proliferation of nuclear weapons. Another dimension of international security, he added, was the possible loss of control over nuclear arsenals and the uncontrolled spread of ready-made nuclear weapons across the globe. Punitive action on a selective basis could not succeed. To be effective, a non-proliferation regime must be universal, comprehensive and non-disicriminatory, with the goal of complete nuclear disarmament.

The Prime Minister of Japan, Kiichi Miyazawa, indicated that his country was now striving to make the necessary domestic arrangements to contribute personnel to peace-keeping operations. He would do his utmost to help the relevant legislation approved by the Japanese Diet during its current session which commence this month, he said.

Speaking of the United Nations' role in today's world, Mr. Miyazawa said that since the Security Council was at the centre of the Organization's effort to maintain international peace and security, it was important to consider thoroughly ways to adjust its function, composition, and other aspects "so as to make it more reflective of the realities of the new era", he said. It was also important, he said, to strengthen the functions of the United Nations so that it can work more effectively to secure a peacefull world order. An important step in this direction was made last December with the adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration proposed and co-sponsored by Japan and other countries on United Nations fact-finding role in the maintenance of international peace and security. Also a sound financial base was essential to enhancing the effectiveness of the Organization. In particular, in the peace-keeping area.

Mr. Miyazawa pointed out the active role played by his country in the area of the disarmament particularly nuclear disarmament with a view to attaining strategic stability at the lower level of armament. The proliferation and transfer of weapons was a matter of concern to all the members of the international community, he said. It was incumbent upon the Security Council to be seized with the developments made in this areas.

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The Prime Minister of Japan concluded by proposing the creation of a consultative mechanism on the establishment of peace-keeping operations particularly the large scale operations. He also suggested that concrete ways be sought to strengthened the role of the United Nations in facing non-military threat to the future security and prosperity of humankind, including those relating to the environment, refugees, and poverty.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Hungary, Géza Jeszenszky, said that one of the most urgent tasks stems from the situation emerging after the disintegration of the former Soviet Union. Following more than seven decades of rule by totalitarian regime, what emerges is an economy in ruins with ensuing grave social problems, no clear-cut arrangements for the control of formidable nuclear weapons and the eruption of violent ethnic discords. The process of rearrangement taking place in Eastern Europe has not led only to potential crisis situation, but also to an actual explosion in what has been Yugoslavia, he said. It was incumbent upon the Security Council to carefully monitor, in close cooperation with the European Community, the developments in that area and to deploy United Nations monitors or peace-keeping forces in all regions where tensions and conflicts might arise.

Speaking of the disarmament issue, Mr. Jeszenszky said that not only war industries should be converted to civilian purposes, but a large number of professional soldiers also need to be retrained and reprogrammed. The future of the newly independent States in the Balkans and in the former Soviet Union hinges largely on the success or failure of this huge endeavour of human conversion, he concluded.

Foreign Minister Shamuyarira of Zimbabwe said that because the principles of the Charter must govern the global order, the process must begin with a re-examination of the Charter itself. A new world order could best be constructed by updating provisions that had been rendered obsolete by new international circumstances. In response to the misgivings expressed by some about the prosecution of the Gulf war, future collective enforcement operations must be fully accountable to the Council and should be truly representative and should not be dominated by a single group of countries.

Closing the meeting, Mr. John Major, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and host of the Summit, emphasized the new opportunities in preventive diplomacy, in peace-making and peace-keeping. Preventive diplomacy means action to avert, or at least to contain crises, he said. In future, the Council must be prepared to act before tension becomes concrete. Peace-making and peace-keeping, he indicated, should run in parallel.

Mr. Major stressed that the Member States of the United Nations must be active in arms control. First, he said, the START and CFE Treaties must be implemented; second, further measures of disarmament - regional and global - must be worked out; third, arrangements must be made to prevent proliferation and discouraged the accumulation of leathal weaponry.

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Mr. Major also said that Britain believes that all States must respect human rights and fundamental freedoms. Good Government is not a luxury, it is a bed-rock on which we build a stable, prosperous society, he said.

The Prime Minister also said that the United Nations can play a key role in promoting acceptance of the principles of the Charter and the peaceful settlement of disputes. His country will work closely with the Secretary-General to strengthened hand-in-hands the Organization's capacity to respond to crises and incipient crisis where it threatens, he concluded.

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United Nations

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General is sending Mr. Amos Wako to Indonesia as his Personal Envoy, to seek clarification about an alleged incident in East Timor on 12 November 1991.

- United Nations Commissioner for Refugees expresses regret about United States decision to repatriate Haitian refugees and concern for their safety.

- Secretary-General lists the 15 countries that have paid in full their contributions to the 1992 regular budget; Member States still owed the United Nations $816,558,111 at the end of 1991.

- Committee on Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy begins its sixth session.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to send Amos Wako, the Attorney-General of Kenya and an international authority on human rights, to Indonesia, as his Personal Envoy, to obtain clarification on the events that occurred in Dili, East Timor, on 12 November last year when, allegedly, Indonesian security forces opened fire on a group of about 1,000 civilians attending a funeral.

Mr. Wako's mission is scheduled to begin on 8 February and last for about a week. He, together with two United Nations officials, will meet with government officials, members of the Indonesian National Commission of Inquiry and others concerned with the incident. He will then report back to the Secretary-General on his findings.

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Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), expressed regret today at the decision by the United States Government to resume repatriating Haitians who had been seeking asylum in the United States.

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According to a statement issued by UNHCR, the High Commissioner had sought assurance from the United States Government at "a very high level" that the Haitian refugees would not be forced to return until the situation in Haiti had "evolved positively" and become more stable.

The Haitians, who have been detained at a United States naval base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, fled their homeland in the months since the democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was overthrown in a military coup last year.

The High Commissioner said that continuing reports of serious human rights abuses and acts of violence by the security forces in Haiti gave cause for great concern. There was reason to fear that those forced to return would be exposed to danger, and UNHCR was not in a position to monitor their safety.

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The Secretary-General today issued a list of those Member States which had met their legal obligation to pay their full assessments for the regular 1992 budget by 31 January. They are: Australia, Botswana, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Ghana, Iceland, Ireland, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden. The assessed contributions to the 1992 regular budget total $1,037,471, 596 and all Member States had been requested by the Secretary-General to make their payments in full by 31 January.

In a statement issued by his spokesman, the Secretary-General said that, given the precariousness of the financial situation, the full payments made by the 15 countries were a matter of extreme satisfaction to him.

In addition, 12 Member States, whose regular budget assessments for prior years are fully paid, had made partial payments of their 1992 assessments by 31 January. They are: Austria, Colombia, Dominica, Germany, Hungary, Lesotho, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Swaziland, the United Kingdom and Zaire.

Two new Member States, Estonia and Lithuania, had made advance payments of $5,000 each towards the current regular budget, pending a final decision by the General Assembly as to their rates of assessment.

At the end of 1991, Member States owed the United Nations $816,558,111 in total unpaid assessments for the regular budget and peace-keeping operations.

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The demand for world energy had accelerated at the same time that global concerns about the environment had intensified, said Antoine Blanca, United Nations Director General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, at the opening meeting of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy. The sixth session of the Committee is scheduled from today to 14 February.

Mr. Blanca stressed growing concern about the contribution of carbon monoxide to the "greenhouse effect" through the use of fossil fuels and deforestation. He pointed out that energy conservation policies that had promoted new and renewable sources of energy had been scaled down after the 1986 collapse of oil prices and he emphasized the need to strengthen national institutions for renewable energy sources which, he said, could alleviate the demand for conventional energy.

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United Nations

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General expresses concern over reports of attempted coup against Government of President Carlos Andrés Pérez of Venezuela.

- Director General of International Atomic Energy Agency, in address before Arab Conference in Tripoli, calls for reinforcement of non-proliferation safeguards system; receives assurance from Libyan leaders for openness to inspection of sites.

- United Nations special mission returns from Iraq with "detailed new information" about weapons of mass destruction.

- Secretary-General invites parties in Somali conflict and leaders of regional organizations to meeting in New York next week; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees says some 700 Somali refugees a day are pouring into Kenya.

- Secretary-General appoints Rafeeudin Ahmed as Executive Secretary of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific with effect from 1 April.

- General Assembly to take up financing of United Nations mission to Cambodia and disaster aid to Samoa.

- Special Committee on Charter begins 1992 session with focus on maintenance of international peace and security.

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Responding to reports about events in Venezuela yesterday, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said today through his Spokesman that he had received with great concern reports of an attempted coup against the Government of President Carlos Andrés Pérez of Venezuela.

The Secretary-General said he was relieved to learn that the coup appeared to have failed and that the freely elected leader in that country, "a solid bastion of democracy", was in control. He expressed the hope that full

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normality would be re-established soon and wished to convey his best wishes to President Carlos Andrés Pérez whom he had met last week.

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The Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix, has called for the strengthening of the non-proliferation safeguards system, so as to reinforce confidence and consolidate conditions for peace. Addressing senior nuclear scientists and officials from Arab nations in Tripoli on Sunday, 2 February, he urged all non-nuclear-weapon States which have adhered to the non-proliferation Treaty or similar treaties, and which have comprehensive safeguards agreements with the IAEA, to support the reinforcement of the safeguards regime. He said the inspection system needed to be strong enough to detect any possible diversion of material from civilian to military use.

Mr. Blix went on to say that if allegations were made about a country engaging in clandestine nuclear activities or having secret installations, that country would be well advised to ask of its own accord for the IAEA to visit the location and report on it. The safeguards agreements should also serve to clear up unfounded allegations or suspicions.

While in Libya, Mr. Blix held discussions with the political leaders of the country on the use of nuclear energy and technology. He was assured that Libya was not preparing for any military application of nuclear energy. Appreciation was expressed to him for the assistance provided by the IAEA and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in using a radiation method to eradicate the new world screwworm fly, a dangerous pest that could have become a threat to cattle and wildlife in Africa and the Mediterranean region.

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Members of a special United Nations mission to Iraq returned yesterday to New York with "detailed new information" about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

During its visit to Iraq, the mission emphasized to the authorities the need to provide information requested under Security Council resolution 715 (1991) concerning future monitoring and verification, as well as resolution 707 (1991), which ensures access and safety of United Nations inspection teams.

Describing the talks as "significant, detailed and useful", the five-member team, which had been dispatched by Rolf Ekeus, Executive Chairman of the Special Commission, said that many problems and misunderstandings could have been cleared up some time ago and the work of the Special Commission speeded up if the information had been made available earlier.

The detailed information provided by the Iraqis is now being assessed by the Office of the Special Commission set up by the Security Council in connection with the disposal of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

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In separate news, the Secretary-General's Spokesman told correspondents today that talks between the United Nations and Iraq on the subject of oil sales, scheduled to take place in Vienna this week, had been cancelled by Iraq, according to a message delivered by the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations, Abdul Amir A. Al-Anbari. The message did not mention whether the talks would resume at a later date.

The Spokesman further informed correspondents that the Secretary-General was scheduled to leave for Colombia on Friday, 7 February, to attend the opening of the Eighth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). He will return to New York on Sunday.

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The Secretary-General's Spokesman told correspondents today that Mr. Boutros-Ghali has invited the Secretary-Generals of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the League of Arab States and the Islamic Conference to send representatives to New York for a meeting next week on the situation in Somalia. Interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammed and General Mohammed Farah Aideed, Chairman of the United Somali Congress, have also asked to be represented at the meeting.

In related news, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) says that Somali refugees are streaming into Kenya at a rate of about 700 per day.

According to the UNHCR's representative in Kenya, Sylvester Awuye, some 75,000 Somalis, mainly old men, women and children, have already poured across the border. Most are totally emaciated and are suffering from severe dehydration and malnutrition. The World Food programme has set aside a special allocation for an estimated 145,000 people, to cope with the exodus from war-torn Somalia. An emergency task force has been set up in Nairobi and the Kenyan Government has provided a site for a new camp to accommodate the flood of arrivals.

The report was received from a United Nations Press Officer based in Geneva.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Rafeeudin Ahmed as Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Mr. Ahmed, who will be replacing Shah A.M.S. Kibria, will assume his functions with effect from 1 April.

A national of Pakistan, Mr. Ahmed has held the post of Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social affairs, while continuing to serve as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in South-East Asia. Prior to that, from 1 January 1983, he was Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Trusteeship and

Decolonization. Mr. Ahmed joined the Secretariat in May 1970.

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Financial questions concerning United Nations transitional arrangements in Cambodia were among the new items which the General Assembly this morning decided to add to the agenda of its current session.

The funding of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and proposals concerning the financing of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) were allocated to the Assembly's Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary), along with the task of recommending candidates to fill two vacancies on the International Civil Service Commission.

In response to a request by Samoa for assistance following the devastation caused by the cyclone in December 1991, the Assembly decided to reopen the question of special economic and disaster relief assistance and to discuss that subject directly in plenary meeting.

Also this morning, the Assembly took note of a report by the Secretary-General drawing attention to the fact that 20 Member States are in arrears in the payment of their assessed financial contributions to the United Nations. Mr. Boutros-Ghali had reminded delegations that, under Article 19 of the Charter, a United Nations Member which was in arrears in paying its contributions for two full years would have no vote in the Assembly.

When the Assembly meets again on 14 February, it will consider the reports of the Fifth Committee on the three matters allocated to it.

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The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization began its three-week session at Headquarters yesterday.

As requested by the General Assembly, the Special Committee will give priority to the question of maintaining international peace and security in all its aspects, and to enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. It is also to consider assistance to third States affected by the application of Security Council economic sanctions, and conciliation rules for the settlement of disputes between States.

The newly elected Chairman, Miroslav Potocny of Czechoslovakia, said that States were becoming more and more interdependent and were integrating economically and politically. Those changes raised hopes for peace around the world, but the search for democratic change presented new challenges. Small-scale conflicts could still occur and ecological conflicts, he pointed out, were starting to rise.

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DH/1073
5 February 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council deplores lack of Iraqi cooperation with United Nations inspection of its weapons programmes as well as decision by Iraqi authorities to break off talks on oil sales to finance essential humanitarian needs.

- Secretary-General says current circumstances in Yugoslavia do not permit him to recommend deployment of United Nations peace-keeping force "at this time"; proposes to enlarge group of United Nations military liaison officers in that country.

- Secretary-General, in opening statement at 1992 session of Special Committee on decolonization, says he will actively pursue peaceful solution to conflict in Western Sahara in cooperation with Organization of African Unity.

- Security Council recommends to General Assembly that Republic of Moldova be admitted to United Nations membership; refers application of Republic of Turkmenistan to Committee for Admission of New Members to United Nations.

- Somali Chargé d'Affaires says United Nations efforts to resolve conflict would not be seen as interference in his country's internal affairs.

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The Security Council held consultations today pursuant to paragraph 21 of resolution 687 (1991) which requests the Council to review the sanctions regime against Iraq every sixty days.

In a press statement following consultations, Council President Thomas R. Pickering of the United States concluded that that there was no agreement that the necessary conditions existed for a modification of the regime established in that resolution.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Referring to the Secretary-General's report on Iraq's compliance with all the obligations placed upon it by resolution 687, Council members expressed concern with the lack of Iraqi cooperation, noting that while progress had been made, much remained to be done. There was serious evidence of Iraqi non-compliance over its programmes for weapons of mass destruction and the repatriation of Kuwaitis and other third country nationals detained in Iraq. Also, according to the statement, there was still much Kuwaiti property to be returned. The Council called for full compliance with resolution 687 and subsequent resolutions.

Also by the statement, the Council strongly deplored the Iraqi decision to discontinue contacts with the United Nations regarding Iraqi oil sales to finance the purchase of foodstuffs, medicines and materials for the purpose of providing humanitarian relief to the civilian population. Members of the Council underscored that the Government of Iraq, by acting in this way, was foregoing the possibility of meeting the essential needs of its civilian population and therefore bore the full responsibility for their humanitarian problems. The Council expressed the hope that a resumption of the contacts might lead to the early implementation of the scheme set out in its resolutions to enable humanitarian supplies to reach the Iraqi people.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has stated in a report to the Security Council that although the cease-fire in Yugoslavia is generally holding, despite allegations of cease-fire violations, "it is clear that the circumstances" in that country do not permit him to recommend the deployment of a United Nations peace-keeping force "at this time".

The Secretary-General said however that the level of violations of the cease-fire reported by Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding was "not sufficiently grave to make it impossible to deploy a United Nations operation", if the other necessary conditions for such deployment were fulfilled.

In his report to the Council, dated 4 February, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali noted that the 50 United Nations military liaison officers, which were deployed to Yugoslavia in mid-January, were making "a significant contribution" to the efforts of the international community to maintain the cease-fire in that country. He therefore recommended that the group be modestly enlarged to 75 officers for technical reasons related to the fact that its deployment in Yugoslavia now seemed likely to be rather longer than originally envisaged.

The Secretary-General further reported that he had been disturbed to hear of allegations that the arms embargo imposed by the Security Council was not being observed and called for the scrupulous compliance with the embargo. (S/23513)

* * *

The Secretary-General, opening the 1992 session of the Special Committee on Decolonization, said today that he had had positive contacts with the two protagonists to the conflict in Western Sahara over the past few days, and, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), would actively pursue a peaceful solution.

The Secretary-General went on to say that the Plan of Action adopted by the General Assembly last year, aimed at attaining complete decolonization by the year 2000, would benefit from the prevailing atmosphere of serenity in international relations. He called on the partners in the decolonization process, the administering Powers and the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to cooperate more closely with the United Nations in that endeavour. He also urged the specialized agencies and other institutions associated with the Organization to substantially increase their support for the small island Territories.

* * *

The Security Council recommended this afternoon to the General Assembly that the Republic of Moldova be admitted to membership in the United Nations. The Council took that action, without a vote, in the first of two meetings on admission of new members.

In a second meeting this afternoon, the Council referred action on the application of Turkmenistan to the Committee on the Admission of New Members of the United Nations.

* * *

The Chargé d'Affaires of the Somali Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Fatun Mohammed Hassan, has urged the Security Council to intercede in the current crisis in Somalia, stressing that no measures - "even if coercive" - would be interpreted as interference in its internal affairs, since the effect would be the saving of lives and the restoration of human dignity.

In a letter to the Council President, dated 30 January, Mr. Hassan recommended a two-pronged approach: a cease-fire, maintained if necessary by force, and a "national reconciliation conference", backed by the United Nations, and with the re-establishment of Somali unity as its central purpose. Any clan opposing that unity with separatist or secessionist intentions, he said, should face the threat of sanctions.

He added that the fact that the warring factions "are all tired of this interminable situation augured well for concerted and unrelenting international efforts to bring them together".

It was also confirmed at Headquarters today that the Secretary-General was waiting for replies to the invitations he had sent to the various parties involved in the Somali conflict and to the leaders of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the League of Arab States and the Islamic Conference to attend a meeting in New York next week.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1074
6 February 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General's Personal Envoy on Yugoslavia Cyrus Vance receives confirmation from Croatian President Tudjman that he accepts "fully and unconditionally" Secretary-General's plan for deployment of United Nations peace-keeping force in Yugoslavia; the leader of the Serbian community in Croatia yet to accept this plan.

- Indian industrialist and Population Council named 1992 winners of United Nations Population Award.

* * *

The Security Council held consultations today to discuss the Secretary-General's report on Yugoslavia, as well as a draft resolution circulated among Council members. The Council will resume its consultations tomorrow morning.

Following consultations this morning, the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to Yugoslavia, Mr. Cyrus Vance, briefed correspondents at Headquarters saying he was optimistic about the situation in that country since receiving a letter from President Tudjman of Croatia this morning confirming that he accepts "fully and unconditionally" the Secretary-General's plan for the deployment of United Nations peace-keeping force in Yugoslavia.

According to the Secretary-General's report, dated 4 February, the Government of Croatia and the local Serbian leaders in the Krajina United Nations Protected Area constituted major obstacles to the decision of the Security Council to establish and deploy a peace-keeping operation in Yugoslavia.

Mr. Vance told correspondents that the only remaining obstacle now to going ahead with the peace plan was Milan Babic, the leader of the Serbian community in that area, the self-proclaimed "Republic of Serbian Krajina", who had still not accepted the plan. However, he said, the Federal Government and Army and the other leaders had taken it upon themselves to obtain the agreement of Mr. Babic.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Asked about the possibility of sending in a peace-keeping force at this time, he said that all three parties would need to agree to the Secretary-General's plan as it had been drafted in his recent report.

Mr Vance made a point of thanking German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher for his "very helpful intervention" in bringing about the present agreements. He went on to say that given the extreme delicacy of the present situation, it would be very unwise for any further outside parties to interfere in the situation by granting recognition to the Republics. Such action would create the possibility of "serious disturbances", he said.

According to the Secretary-General's report, the deployment of a United Nations peace-keeping force rests on two central elements, namely the withdrawal of the Yugoslav Federal Army (JFA) from all of Croatia and the demilitarization of the United Nations Protected Areas, as well as on the continuing functioning, on an interim basis, of the existing local authorities and police, under United Nations supervision, pending the achievement of an overall political solution to the Yugoslav crisis.

In addition, the Secretary-General had proposed in his report that the group of United Nations military liaison officers in Yugoslavia be modestly enlarged to 75 officers for technical reasons since its deployment in that country now seemed likely to be longer than originally expected.

* * *

An industrialist from India, J.R.D. Tata, and the New York-based Population Council, an international contraceptive research organization, have won the 1992 United Nations Population Awards. Given each year to one individual and one institution, the awards recognize outstanding contributions in the field of family planning and birth control.

The names of the winners were announced at a press conference at Headquarters today by the Chairman of the Committee of the United Nations Population Award, Jorge Montaño, Mexico's Permanent Representative of Mexico.

The 87-year-old Mr Tata was selected by the Committee for his private and public work to raise awareness of the importance of population control in India and many other countries. The family planning and welfare programme he introduced in his own factory in the 1950s became a model for programmes throughout the country, and the Family Planning Foundation of India, which he established in 1970, is still the country's leading non-governmental organization in the field of family planning.

The Population Council was chosen by the Committee for the excellence of its scientific research and training, and its work in developing and introducing new and more effective contraceptives. Its two most recent products are NORPLANT, the long-lasting contraceptive implant, and an advanced copper-t interuterine device.

The Committee of the United Nations Population Award is made up of representatives of 10 United Nations Member States elected by the Economic and Social Council for a term of three years.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1075
7 February 1992

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- Security Council unanimously approves Secretary-General's proposal to increase strength of military liaison mission in Yugoslavia to a total of 75 officers; requests the Secretary-General to expedite his preparations for a United Nations peace-keeping operation to be deployed immediately after the Security Council decides to do so.

- Secretary-General announces administrative changes in Secretariat resulting in net reduction of 14 high-level posts, among other things.

- Secretary-General to attend Eighth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development which opens in Cartagena de Indias, tomorrow, 8 February.

- Margaret Joan Anstee appointed Special Representative for Angola.

- Security Council recommends admission of Republic of Turkmenistan for United Nations membership.

- Negotiation Committee for Biological Diversity Convention to meet in Nairobi 6 to 15 February.

* * *

Security Council today reaffirmed unanimously its commitment to the Secretary-General's plan to deploy a United Nations peace-keeping force in Yugoslavia and approved his proposal to enlarge the group of military liaison officers there to a total of 75 officers.

The Council took that action by the adoption of resolution 740 (1992), which welcomed the Secretary-General's report that the cease-fire has been "generally observed, thus removing one of the obstacles to the deployment of a peace-keeping force". By the resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to expedite his preparations for a United Nations operation so as to be prepared to deploy it immediately following a decision of the Council.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Council noted that the letter of February 6 by Mr. Franjo Tudjman, President of Croatia, in which he "fully and unconditionally" accepts the Secretary-General's definitions of the conditions and areas where the United Nations force would be deployed, "removes a further obstacle" to the deployment of such an operation. It however expressed concern that the United Nations peace-keeping plan had not yet been fully and unconditionally accepted by "some in Yugoslavia on whose cooperation its success depends".

The Council also expressed concern at the indications that the arms embargo which it established in September 1991 was not being fully observed. States were called upon to cooperate fully with the Committee monitoring that embargo, including reporting any information brought to their attention concerning violations of the embargo.

* * *

As a first phase in the process of restructuring and streamlining the Organization which the Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has initiated, it was announced today a series of changes in the structure and staffing of the Secretariat that will entail a net reduction of 14 high-level posts.

Spokesman François Giuliani briefed correspondents on the changes in the top echelon of the Secretariat: Effective 1 March, Antoine Blanca (France) is being appointed Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, and will also head the Centre for Human Rights in Geneva. Georgio Giacomelli (Italy) is being appointed Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, replacing Margaret Anstee, who is to coordinate United Nations activities in connection with the Angola Peace Accords. Ji Chaozhu (China) is being appointed Under-Secretary-General in the Department of Economic Development, which will incorporate various previously separate departments and centres involved with development, economics and technology.

Among other changes, two Departments of Political Affairs are being created, with separate geographical and functional responsibilities. They will be headed respectively, at the Under-Secretary-General level, by James O.C. Jonah (Sierra Leone) and Vladimir Petrovsky (Russia), with Giandomenico Picco (Italy) and Sotirios Mousouris (Greece) at the Assistant Secretary-General level.

The Office for Special Political Affairs, renamed the Office for Peace-keeping Operations and headed by Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding (United Kingdom), will be reinforced with the addition of an Assistant Secretary-General, a post to be held by Kofi Annan (Ghana).

Eugeniusz Wyzner (Poland) is being appointed Under-Secretary-General in the Department of Public Information. Jean-Claude Aimé (Haiti) will be Chief of Staff of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, and Alvaro de Soto (Peru) will be Senior Political Advisor, both serving at the Assistant Secretary-General level.

(more)

Effective 29 February, the following offices and departments will cease to be separate entities and their functions and programmes will continue under different administrative arrangements: Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation; Office for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services; Office for Research and the Collection of Information; Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea; Department of Political and Security Council Affairs; Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship; Department for Disarmament Affairs; Department of International Economic and Social Affairs; Department of Technical Cooperation for Development; Centre for Science and Technology for Development; United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations; Department of Conference Services.

The Spokesman noted that further announcements would be made soon regarding the Department of Administration and Management, and the Office of the Emergency Relief Coordinator.

* * *

The Secretary-General left New York today for Colombia and will arrive in Cartagena de Indias tomorrow for the opening of the Eighth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD VIII). Mr. Boutros-Ghali is expected back in New York on Monday, 10 February.

During the Conference, some 2,000 delegates from more than 150 countries will be discussing the unprecedented economic challenges and opportunities of the 1990s and their potential for expanding world trade and promoting development. They will also consider the increased scope for reductions in military expenditures world-wide, broad support for market-oriented economic reform, advances in democratization, and growing respect for human rights.

A negotiating text to be considered during the session sees the climate created by those factors as conducive to laying the groundwork for a "new partnership for development".

* * *

In a separate announcement today, Spokesman François Giuliani said the Secretary-General had appointed Margaret Joan Anstee to the post of Special Representative for Angola, effective today.

Ms. Anstee, who is currently serving as Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna, will coordinate the current and projected activities of the United Nations in connection with the Angola Peace Accords signed on 31 May 1991.

The Special Representative will be in overall charge of these activities and will also be the Chief of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) whose task will likely be enlarged in the near future to include the monitoring of the forthcoming Angola elections. In this connection, the Secretary-General has asked Ms. Anstee to give priority to finalizing planning

(more)

for United Nations observation of the elections, so that his report on the subject can be presented to the Security Council as soon as possible.

* * *

The Security Council today recommended to the General Assembly that the Republic of Turkmenistan be admitted to membership in the United Nations. The Council took that decision, without a vote, in a separate meeting after its adoption of resolution 740 on Yugoslavia.

* * *

Negotiators from more than 80 countries are meeting at the Nairobi headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to thrash out a draft of a complete and comprehensive treaty to save the earth's biological wealth.

The meeting, which began on Thursday, 6 February, and ends on Saturday, 15 February, has brought together close to 300 international experts, who constitute the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention on Biological Diversity. This is their sixth round of negotiations on the text of the draft convention, and it is hoped that the final version, to be confirmed at the Committee's next session in May, will be open for signature during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil in June.

The objective of the Convention is to conserve the maximum possible biological diversity for the benefit of present and future generations and for its intrinsic value, declares the draft document. It seeks to combine concern for international cooperation on conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.

* * *

CORRECTION:

The item in the Monday Highlights of 3 February 1992, referring to Mr. Amos Wako's mission to Indonesia on 8 February, should be replaced by the following:

"Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to send S. Amos Wako, Attorney General of Kenya and an international authority on human rights, to Indonesia as his Personal Envoy, in order to obtain clarifications on the tragic events which occurred in Dili, East Timor, on 12 November 1991.

(more)

Mr. Wako's mission, which is scheduled to start on 8 February, will last for about a week, during which time he will meet with government officials, members of the Indonesian National Commission of Inquiry as well as with others concerned. Upon completion of his mission, Mr. Wako will report to the Secretary-General.

Mr. Wako will be accompanied by two officials of the United Nations Secretariat."

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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10 February 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's Personal Representative for Afghanistan says chances for political settlement to 13-year old conflict in that country "are looking better than ever".

◆ Secretary-General says he will soon present to Security Council operational plan for United Nations monitored elections in Angola; agreement on technical assistance has already been signed with that Government.

◆ On official visit to Colombia, Secretary-General meets in Santa Fe de Bogota with Colombian President, Foreign Minister and his Personal Representative for Central American for talks on situation in El Salvador, Central America, Cambodia and Yugoslavia.

◆ Also in Colombia, Secretary-General addresses opening meeting of eighth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Cartagena, declaring that there could be no peace and security without development and no development without peace and security. The United Nations must help Governments what were in the process of democratization, a process which preceded development.

◆ Secretary-General receives confirmation from both parties to Somali conflict that each will send three-men delegations to represent them at talks to be held in New York this week on situation in Somalia.

◆ United States suspends cooperation with United Nations Special Committee on decolonization due to "outmoded, irrelevant and repetitive rhetoric" in its work.

* * *

The chances for a political settlement to the 13-year old conflict in Afghanistan "are looking brighter than ever", according to Benon Sevan, Personal Representative of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Mr. Sevan has just returned to Islamabad after an intensive round of consultations in Peshawar with a wide range of tribal leaders from all regions

(more)

For information media—not an official record

of Afghanistan, as well as with members of several opposition groups. On his return, Mr. Sevan expressed satisfaction with the meetings, which he termed "constructive and encouraging".

During his meetings with Afghan leaders, Mr. Sevan discussed, among other things, the proposal by the Secretary-General last month that a gathering of Afghans be convened in order to agree upon a transition period, as well as the transition mechanism, leading to the establishment of a broad-based government through free and fair elections. Such a gathering -- known as the Ijlas -- would involve the participation of about 150 Afghan representatives acceptable to all sides, and would be convened outside the region. Several groups and leaders said that they would soon be providing the United Nations with suggestions about who should participate in the Ijlas.

Mr. Sevan will be returning to Peshawar for more discussions within two weeks. He is expected to visit Kabul and Teheran during the coming week.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has informed the Security Council that he will present to it shortly an operational plan for United Nations monitored elections in Angola, together with a recommendation that the Council authorize the addition of this function to the mandate already entrusted to him in connection with the implementation of the Angolan Peace Accords.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali said in a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 6 February, that since Angola's request last December for United Nations assistance in preparing for elections, as well as for United Nations observers to follow the electoral procedure until it is completed, work had proceeded on plans for such assistance. An agreement on technical assistance had already been signed with the Government of Angola.

The letter also informed the Council of the Secretary-General's decision to appoint Margaret Joan Anstee as Special Representative for Angola to head the current and projected activities of the United Nations in connection with the Peace Accords and to be the Chief of the United Nations Verification Mission (UNAVEM II). Mr. Boutros-Ghali said he also expected to recommend to the Council that, in addition to the existing military observers and police monitors and the existing civilian staff, UNAVEM II should be enlarged to include an Electoral Division.

The elections in Angola are scheduled for September 1992.

* * *

The Secretary-General, visiting Colombia this past weekend for the opening of the eighth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD VIII) in Cartegena de Indias, was received with full Head of State honours. He was also awarded honorary citizenship of Santa Fe de Bogota and Cartegena de Indias.

(more)

It was the Secretary-General's first official visit to a Member State since assuming office on January 1. In Santa Fe de Bogota on Saturday, he had a meeting with President Cesar Gaviria, attended also by Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin and the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Central American, Alvaro de Soto. They discussed a wide range of issues, including the situation of El Salvador and Central America, Cambodia and Yugoslavia, the difficulties of developing countries and their economic adjustment programmes. They also discussed expectations for UNCTAD VIII.

In Cartegena for the opening of UNCTAD VIII, Mr. Boutros-Ghali declared that there could be no peace and security without development and no development without peace and security. The United Nations must help Governments that were in the process of democratization, a process which preceded development.

UNCTAD VIII was taking place at an exceptional moment, he said. The disappearance of competing idealogies and zones of influence meant that all countries had the responsibility for promoting mutually advantageous economic and political cooperation. At the same time, those developments increased the risk of conflict, underscoring the vital need to rethink approaches for ensuring collective security and the maintenance of peace. The principles inherent in democratic systems and in the sound management of public affairs must not stop at national boundaries, they must also apply to the management of the world economy.

The Secretary-General proposed a triennial review of the global interrelation between political, economic and social problems and supported the convening of an international conference on finance and development. He said that by contributing to the rise of a new partnership for development, UNCTAD VIII could make a major contribution to an historical turning point in the twenty-first century.

* * *

Spokesman François Giuliani told correspondents today that the Secretary-General had received written confirmation from both Somali leaders -- Interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammed and General Mohammed Farah Aideed -- that they would each be sending three-member delegations to represent them at talks to be held in New York this week on the situation in Somalia. The delegations were due to arrive either Tuesday or Wednesday.

The first phase of the discussions were scheduled to begin on Wednesday morning, the Spokesman said, with meetings between the Secretary-General and representatives of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Arab League and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Talks with the Somali parties were due to begin either on Wednesday evening or Thursday.

(more)

In related news, German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has expressed his country's readiness to provide two demilitarized mine-clearing tanks for use in northern Somalia. In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 3 February, he said that the offer was being made on the assumption that "this humanitarian measure does not conflict with the provisions of Security Council resolution 733 (1992)", which calls for a cease-fire in Mogadishu and an arms embargo against Somalia.

The President of the Security Council told the Secretary-General, in a letter of reply dated 5 February, that the Council had no objection to the German offer.
(S/23524 S/23525)

* * *

The United States has suspended its cooperation with the United Nations Special Committee on decolonization.

In a letter to the President of the General Assembly, dated 4 February, United States Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering explained his country's decision, saying that the United States would not resume cooperation with the Committee until it "brings its work in line with the current focus and spirit of the United Nations". As the number of remaining non-self-governing territories diminished, it was increasingly important that the United Nations decolonization committees pay more attention to those territories' evolution towards self-government, he said.

He noted that, this year, the Special Committee had again forwarded to the General Assembly a number of resolutions which contained "outmoded, irrelevant and repetitive rhetoric". It had again taken up issues which, he said, were inappropriate for Special Committee consideration -- South Africa, apartheid, military activities in United States territories, Puerto Rico and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Ambassador Pickering urged members of the Special Committee to reform its work and to address as a matter of priority those issues of significance to the remaining territories.
(A/47/86)

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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11 February 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Afghan Government releases nine prisoners of war, while Secretary-General's Personal Representative, Benon Sevan, is visiting Kabul for talks with Afghan President, high-level Government officials and representatives of independent groups.

- Security Council refers application of Azerbaijan for United Nations membership to Committee on Admission of New Members.

- Committee hears calls for adapting United Nations Charter and Security Council to new political realities.

- Fourteen years after first being proposed by Yugoslavia, draft declaration on rights of minorities is recommended to Commission on Human Rights for approval.

- Special Commission team completes seventh inspection of Iraq's chemical weapons capabilities.

- International Atomic Energy Agency Director-General, on visit to Syria, receives assurances about safeguards agreement.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's Personal representative for Afghanistan, Benon Sevan, arrived today in Teheran after a two-day visit to Kabul, during which he met with Afghan President Najibullah, Prime Minister Fazlilhaq Khaliqyar, and Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil, as well as with representatives of a number independent groups.

Just before leaving Kabul, Mr. Sevan received, on behalf of the Secretary-General, nine prisoners of war released by the Afghan Government, in response to an appeal by the Secretary-General. The prisoners were handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Mr. Sevan called the release a "necessary step on humanitarian grounds" and a "confidence-building measure designed to bolster the progress towards a peaceful settlement".

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Appealing for the humane treatment of all prisoners in accordance with international law, Mr. Sevan expressed his appreciation to the Government of Afghanistan for the release and said he hoped that it would be followed by many more releases, by all parties concerned.

* * *

The Security Council this morning referred the application of the Republic of Azerbaijan for membership in the United Nations to the Committee on Admission on New Members.

With its decision today, the Council has taken action on the last of the eight countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States seeking United Nations membership. These are Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Turkmenistan. The General Assembly's admission of the seven new members will bring to 173 the total number of United Nations member States.

The other three Commonwealth members that are already members of the United Nations are Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Of the 15 former Soviet republics only Georgia, which is not a Commonwealth member, has yet to make formal application for United Nations membership. The three Baltic States -- Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia -- were admitted as members last year.

* * *

Calls for bringing the United Nations Charter and the Organization's principal organs -- including the Security Council -- into line with new political realities were heard this morning as the Special Committee on the Charter and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization began its general debate.

Speakers observed that the Charter and these bodies had been designed according to political conditions prevailing 46 years ago. Suggestions for updating the Organization's structures included a new definition of "threats to international peace and security" which would encompass internal conditions relating to human rights and the rights of minorities; the admission of new permanent and non-permanent members of the Security Council, and a broadening of Council responsibilities in preventive diplomacy, peace-making and peace-keeping.

Delegates also suggested, among other reforms, the elimination of discriminatory references in the Charter to "enemy States", the introduction of a voting system weighted to reflect Member States' financial contributions to the Organization, and the establishment of formal links between the Security Council and regional organizations.

* * *

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Fourteen years after first being proposed by Yugoslavia, a draft declaration on the rights of minorities has been presented to the Commission on Human Rights, which recommended that it be adopted.

Introducing the draft, Zagorka Ilic (Yugoslavia), the Chairman and Rapporteur of the Commission's Working Group on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National, Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, said the drafting process had been delayed first by a futile wait for a definition of the term "minority", by the sensitivity of the subject matter and by the unfavourable international conditions that had prevailed.

Peter H. Kooijmans (Netherlands) remarked that it was tragic that at the moment when the time-consuming operation had finally borne fruit, the country which had set it in motion was itself torn by violent conflicts between various ethnic groups

Though the speakers all welcomed the report, their statements reflected the ongoing controversy it strives to accommodate. Some delegates underlined the importance of protecting individual rights and warned that the notion of "group rights" was "a recipe for resentment" by majorities, while others argued that it was perilous to ignore the potential explosiveness of disregarding national identity.

* * *

The United Nations Special Commission inspection team which carried out the seventh in a continuing series of inspections of Iraq's chemical weapons capabilities reported on its return to New York yesterday that it had found no evidence of undeclared chemical weapons activities relevant to Security Council cease-fire resolution 687 (1991).

In the course of its work, the team observed the first in a series of test runs of an hydrolysis process designed to destroy nerve agents, but it said further test runs would be needed to confirm that the hydrolysis plant built at the Muthanna State Establishment met the Special Commission's requirements for nerve agent destruction.

The team of 19 experts from 10 nations, led by Commander Dieter Jopp of Germany, inspected 10 sites throughout Iraq and looked for evidence of undeclared chemical weapons activity. They also verified that all the equipment at a sugar factory that a previous inspection team had identified as being connected with the manufacture of aerial bombs had been returned to the Muthanna State Establishment, from where it had originated.

* * *

Syria has informed the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix, of its decision to conclude a safeguards agreement with the Agency, in accordance with its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The notification came during a recent official visit to that country by Mr. Blix, who had discussed Syria's use of nuclear energy with Government officials.

(more)

Mr. Blix called the conclusion of a safeguards agreement by Syria under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) "a positive step towards a general acceptance of comprehensive safeguards in the Middle East".

The Syrian officials assured the IAEA Director-General of their Government's commitment to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and expressed the desire to have the Middle East region free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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12 February 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Libya asks Secretary-General to set up legal "mechanism" to investigate its alleged involvement in terrorist acts that led to destruction of Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772.

- Secretary-General begins preliminary discussions with representatives of Organization of African Unity, League of Arab States and Organization of Islamic Conference on cease-fire in Somalia and national reconciliation conference.

- As it begins consideration of Secretary-General's request for $200 million for United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia and $22.9 million for Advance Mission, Fifth Committee is warned of "unfavourable political developments" and "increased financial costs" if financing of those missions is delayed.

- Security Council Committee appeals to all States for information on any violations of arms embargo against Yugoslavia.

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Libya has asked Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to set up a legal "mechanism" to investigate its alleged involvement in the terrorist acts that led to the destruction of Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772. The Security Council last month adopted a resolution requesting that Libya cooperate fully in establishing responsibility for the downing of the aircraft.

In a report to the Security Council, dated 11 February, the Secretary-General indicated that he had held a meeting that day with the Libyan Permanent Representative to the United Nations who informed him of the compliance of his country with the Security Council's request for legal cooperation, since it was "in conformity with international law and did not infringe upon the sovereignty of Libya". Libya was ready to cooperate fully with the Security Council and with the Secretary-General "in a way that would not infringe upon State sovereignty nor violate the Charter of the United Nations and principles of international law". It called upon the United States, the United Kingdom and France to discuss among themselves and

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For information media—not an official record

eventually agree on the setting up of a mechanism in accordance with the Security Council's request for cooperation on the matter. (S/23574)

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali this afternoon began preliminary discussions with representatives of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference on approaches to implementing a cease-fire in Somalia and convening of a national reconciliation conference.

Tomorrow, the Secretary-General is scheduled to meet separately with representatives of Interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammed and with representatives of General Mohammed Farah Aideed. In the afternoon, a United Nations delegation, led by Under-Secretary-General James O.C. Jonah, will meet with the two Somali parties, either together or separately. They will discuss the cease-fire in Mogadiscio, and security arrangements for the humanitarian assistance programme there.

The United Nations delegation will meet with the three regional organizations on Friday, 14 February, to prepare the ground rules for convening the peace conference. Security Council resolution 733 (1992), calling for a cease-fire in the Somali conflict and the extension of humanitarian aid to the country, requires the Secretary-General to work with the regional organizations on these issues.

* * *

Undue delays in the financing of United Nations peace-keeping efforts in Cambodia could lead to unfavourable political developments and substantially increased financial costs, said J. Richard Foran, Acting Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and Assistant Secretary-General for General Services, before the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) this morning.

Introducing the Secretary-General's two reports on the financing of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC), Mr. Foran said the Secretary-General was requesting that the Assembly appropriate $200 million for the pre-implementation of goods and services in Cambodia for the operation of the Authority. The Secretary-General was also requesting an estimated $22.9 to finance the Mission's mandate, which had been expanded by the Security Council to include a de-mining programme.

C.S.M. Mselle, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), introducing the related reports, said the Advisory Committee had approved the Secretary-General's request for $200 million for the Authority's mandate.

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The General Assembly will meet on Friday, 14 February, to take up the Fifth Committee's report.

* * *

The Security Council Committee, established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia, has decided to address an appeal to all States requesting them, among other things, to forward to the Committee any information they may have or may come across relating to any violations or suspected violations of the mandatory arms embargo established against Yugoslavia by Security Council resolution 713 of 25 September 1991.

The text of the appeal was approved by the Council at its meeting on 4 February 1992 and was transmitted to all States on 7 February 1992.

In a related development, the Secretary-General's Spokesman told correspondents today that Mr. Boutros-Ghali had met with his Personal Envoy to Yugoslavia, Mr. Cyrus Vance while in Colombia attending the opening of the Eighth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD VIII). They had discussed "the possible dispatch of a United Nations peace-keeping force to Yugoslavia", which, the Spokesman said, the Secretary-General was considering recommending to the Security Council, "pending some clarifications which are being sought urgently".

The Secretary-General would meet later this evening at Headquarters with Mr. Vance and with Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1079
13 February 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ Secretary-General to recommend to Security Council deployment of United Nations peace-keeping force in Yugoslavia, as outlined in annex of his report of 11 December.

◆ Fifth Committee approves appropriations for peace-keeping operations in Cambodia; recommends General Assembly action.

◆ United States representative says United Nations Charter is flexible and has stood test of time; states also that Security Council has worked "magnificently" in past 18 months.

◆ Eighth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, currently underway in Cartagena, Colombia, hears statements by Finish Secretary of State; Managing Director of International Monetary Fund; and Director-General of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

◆ Palestinian Rights Committee Chairman expresses "anguish and outrage at death of Palestinians" in Israeli custody.

◆ World Health Organization says over one million new HIV infections have occurred in past eight months, bringing total number of cases worldwide to an estimated 10 to 12 million.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to recommend to the Security Council the dispatch of a United Nations peace-keeping force to Yugoslavia totalling more than 10,000 military and civilian personnel.

His Spokesman, François Giuliani, told correspondents today that the recommendation of the Secretary-General would follow the outline contained in annex III of his report to the Security Council, dated 11 December.

He said the Secretary-General was conscious that there remained a number of unanswered questions concerning such an operation and was of the view that the success of the operation was predicated upon the full cooperation and support of all the parties in Yugoslavia.

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For information media--not an official record

Mr. Boutros-Ghali met today at noon with the five Permanent Members of the Security Council -- China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States -- to brief them on his intentions. His report to the Council containing the recommendation was being drafted and would come out early next week, the Spokesman said. Once the Council has adopted the resolution and given the green light to the operation, "there should be Blue Helmets in the area within a couple of weeks", he said.

In reply to correspondents' questions about the financial aspect of the operation, the Spokesman said Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding, the head of United Nations peace-keeping operations, had met today with some 30 potential contributors to discuss the expected cost of approximately $400 million per year.

Speaking to correspondents following the meeting between "the five" and the Secretary-General, the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nation, Yuliy Vorontsov, said the sooner the peace-keeping force was deployed the better it would be for Yugoslavia. He noted that the concept outlined in the Secretary-General's report was "a very good plan for the area". (S/23280)

* * *

Appropriations of $200 million dollars for the initial operation of the United Nations Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and $19.2 million for the expanded mandate of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) were both approved today by the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary).

The Committee took this action by approving, without a vote, two draft resolutions which would have the General Assembly decide to apportion the $200 million among Member States, and request the Secretary-General to establish a special account for UNTAC.

The Secretary-General had requested that amount as much of Cambodia's infrastructure had severely deteriorated. Basic requirements such as office space, drinking water, transportation services, power generation and medical services were unavailable, in very short supply or in unsatisfactory condition.

UNTAC will be responsible for administering the country during the transition period; monitoring and enforcing protection of human rights; verifying the cease-fire, and conducting elections, initially set for late April or early May of 1993. The funding of UNAMIC was approved until April 30,

The Assembly is expected to take action on these drafts tomorrow.

* * *

The Charter of the United Nations had stood the test of time and had been flexibly interpreted, the representative of the United States, Robert B. Rosenstock, told the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on Strengthening the Role of the Organization, yesterday.

(more)

The Security Council had performed magnificently over the last 18 months, he said, which greatly strengthened the capacity of the United Nations to react to threats against international peace and security. It was odd now to hear opposition to the unanimity rule in the Council; those arguments had long since lost whatever power they might have once had, he said. Mr. Rosenstock pointed out that the emergence of new nations was reflected in the current composition of the Council and that countries of the "so-called third world" had a cumulative veto.

Other speakers yesterday called for more equitable representation in the Security Council. The representative of Egypt, Nabil Elaraby, proposed the establishment of a preparatory committee on the revision of the Charter, by 1995. The delegate from the Philippines, Simon R. Raya, cautioned that political will and incremental change were more likely to effect true reform than were sweeping structural reforms.

* * *

The Eighth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD VIII) continued yesterday in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, hearing a statement by Martti Ahtisaari, Secretary of State in Finland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He told the Conference that Finland had granted duty-free entry to almost all imports from the least developed countries. And he called for debt reductions of up to 80 per cent which, he said, should be granted to the most indebted countries on a case-by-case basis.

Among others addressing the Conference yesterday, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Michel Camdessus, said the new opportunities presented by momentous changes in the political and economic framework were accompanied by risks which could "prevent us from reaping the harvest of all our efforts". Those were risks of instability, marginalization and transition, he said. Priority should be given to combating drug trafficking, money laundering and excessive population growth, he said.

Arthur Dunkel, Director-General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), told the Conference "the hour of truth for the Uruguay Round has arrived". He said the Round was the "first opportunity to put in place a strengthened and expanded multilateral trading system able to serve the changing needs of the international trading community for the remainder of this century and beyond".

* * *

The Chairman of the Palestinian Rights Committee has expressed "anguish and outrage" at the death of Palestinians in Israeli custody and "the systematic use of torture and ill-treatment of Palestinian detainees" by Israeli authorities.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 11 February, Committee Chairman Kéba Birane Cisse described an incident on 4 February in which Mustapha al-Akawi, a 35-year-old Jerusalem resident, had died while under

interrogation in Hebron Prison in the occupied West Bank. The letter also cited other incidents reported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Amnesty International, in which prisoners allegedly died or were ill-treated while in the custody of Israeli authorities; it also referred to a published report by Betzelem, the Israeli Information Centre on Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, which found that "a number of interrogation methods routinely used are prohibited by international human rights instruments, as well as by Israeli laws banning the use of force to extract confessions".

The Palestinian Rights Chairman urgently appealed to the Secretary-General, the Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture, to take steps to ensure that Israel desists "forthwith" from using illegal methods in its treatment of Palestinian detainees and respects its international obligations.
(S/23570)

* * *

Another one million people have become infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in the past eight months, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced yesterday. That brings the total number of cases of HIV infection worldwide since the start of the pandemic 10 years ago to an estimated 10 to 12 million.

According to WHO, well over 90 per cent of the newly infected adults acquired their infection from heterosexual intercourse, with equal numbers of men and women becoming infected. That trend was evident not just in developing countries but, increasingly, in the industrialized countries too.

Close to 2 million people have reached the late stage of HIV infection known as AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome). Because it takes an average of 10 years for an HIV-infected adult to develop AIDS, WHO points out that the rise in cases since last April foreshadows what will be an increasing trend throughout this decade and beyond. Basing its prediction on its current findings, the Organization estimates that by the year 2000 between 30 and 40 million people will have the infection.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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14 February 1992

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

◆ The two Somali factions commit themselves tonight at United Nations headquarters to an immediate cessation of hostilities and to the maintenance of a cease-fire in Mogadiscio; a high-level delegation of United Nations and three regional organizations to visit the capital of Somalia before the end of February to conclude a cease-fire agreement.

◆ Dick Thornburgh of United States appointed United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and Jan Eliasson of Sweden Emergency Relief Coordinator.

◆ Donors pledge some $41.7 million against target of $50 millions for United Nations Emergency Relief Fund.

◆ General Assembly appropriates $200 million for first phase of deployment of the Authority in Cambodia and $19.2 million for Advance Mission; Mario Bettati of France and Lucretia Myers of United States appointed to International Civil Service Commission.

◆ Libya's request for special session of General Assembly on international terrorism does not obtain necessary majority.

◆ Security Council recommends to General Assembly Azerbaijan for United Nations membership.

◆ Three high-level United Nations missions to go to former Soviet Union over the weekend to assess urgent health needs of women and children.

◆ UNCTAD VIII hears Swiss proposal that it be converted into centre for economic analysis -- a forum for views on economic policies and alternative approaches on development.

◆ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to send emergency team to Bangladesh to help more than 60,000 refugees fleeing across Myanmar border.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

◆ Foreign Minister of Russian Federation addresses disarmament conference in Geneva.

◆ United Nations Disaster Relief Organization appeals for international assistance for more than 9,000 Cubans affected by flooding in several coastal areas on that island.

* * *

The two Somali factions committed themselves tonight at United Nations headquarters to an immediate cessation of hostilities and to the maintenance of a cease-fire in Mogadiscio. To this end, they signed pledges to that effect in the presence of the representatives of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The factions also agreed to the visit to the capital of Somalia before the end of February of a high-level delegation composed of representatives of the United Nations and the three regional organizations to conclude a cease-fire.

The representatives of the United Nations and the three regional organizations further exchanged views on the modalities for the next phase of their joint efforts, that is the convening of an all-embracing national reconciliation conference aimed at the achievement of a lasting peaceful solution of the Somali problem.

The cease-fire agreement was signed following several rounds of negociations at United Nations headquarters between all parties concerned, with the participation of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has announced two additional appointments in connection with the changes in the top echelon of the United Nations Secretariat.

Dick Thornburgh of the United Nations has been appointed Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, effective 1 March, and Jan Eliasson of Sweden has been appointed Emergency Relief Coordinator, also at the level of Under-Secretary-General.

Mr. Thornburgh, who previously served two terms as Governor of Pennsylvania, held the post of seventy-sixth Attorney-General of the United States from 1988 to 1991. He is currently a partner in the Pittsburg law firm of Kirkpatrick and Lockhart.

Mr. Eliasson, who has been the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations since 1988, will take up his new functions in the coming weeks and will be in charge of coordinating the emergency assistance, as outlined by the General Assembly last December. Activities currently under way include programmes in the Horn of Africa, South-East Asia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Central America. He will work closely with the Secretary-General.

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In his capacity, Mr. Eliasson will be in charge of the management of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, to be established by the Secretary-General as a cash-flow mechanism of $50 million to ensure the rapid and coordinated response of the organizations of the UN system.

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In a related development, a United Nations spokesman has announced pledges of some $41.7 million against its target of $50 million to the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, following a meeting today of potential donors for contributions.

In announcing the appointment of the new Emergency Relief Coordinator, Jan Eliasson of Sweden, the Secretary-General said the establishment of the Fund would go a long way to facilitate the Organization's rapid response.

In response to the Secretary-General's remarks, Mr. Eliasson said the United Nations humanitarian structure would face the difficult task of balancing the need for access to victims and the respect for sovereignty. He also stressed the need to address the root causes of disasters including poverty.

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The General Assembly this morning appropriated $200 million for goods and services required for the initial operation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). The UNTAC will be responsible for administering Cambodia during its transition period; monitoring and enforcing protection of human rights; verifying the cease-fire; and conducting elections in which some 4.3 million people are eligible to participate. The elections are envisaged to take place from late April to early May of 1993 to accommodate the country's weather cycle.

Also this morning, the Assembly appropriated some 19.2 million, including $10 million previously authorized by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), for the expanded mandate of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) for the period from 15 January to 30 April.

By both decisions, the Assembly urged Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time, and invited voluntary contributions in cash or in kind.

Also this morning, the Assembly appointed Mario Bettati (France) and Lucretia Myers (United States) to fill vacancies on the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) through 31 December 1993.

The Assembly will meet again on Friday, 28 February, to consider the admission of new members. It will resume its forty-sixth session on Tuesday, 7 April, and again on Tuesday, 23 June. The duration of the resumed sessions will be contingent upon the issues to be considered.

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The Secretary-General has stated, in a note dated 12 February, that the request by Libya that a special session of the General Assembly be convened to consider an item on international terrorism had not been granted, given that the majority of Member States needed to concur in the request had not been obtained.

In a letter dated of 7 January, the Permanent Representative of Libya had asked for a special session to consider an item entitled "Danger posed by the phenomenon of international terrorism to the international peace and security and a number of other grave issues of concern to all nations". The Secretary-General communicated the request to all Member States on 9 January and inquired whether they concurred in the convening of the session. By 8 February, one Member (the Sudan) had concurred and one Member (Belarus) had not concurred in the request.

On 21 January, the Security Council, in resolution 731, had called on the Libyan Government to provide "full and effective" response to requests for cooperation in establishing responsibility for the destruction of Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772.

* * *

The Security Council today recommended to the General Assembly that it admit Azerbaijan for United Nations membership. A former Soviet Republic, Azerbaijan is one of eight Republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) recommended for United Nations membership this year.

The General Assembly will meet on Friday, 28 February, to admit the new members.

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The Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Andrei V. Kozyrev, yesterday told the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva that the most urgent task facing it was the completion of talks on the total prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons. Though his country assumed full responsibility for the destruction of such weapons, international cooperation and some help from abroad could play a role in resolving such an undertaking, he noted.

In a message to the Conference, Russia's President, Boris N. Yeltsin observed that the cold war confrontation had left a heritage of mountains of weapons, huge armies and entire defence-oriented industries employing millions of people. His recent talks with leaders of many States had revealed political prerequisites for doing away with that legacy through joint efforts, he said, and the Conference should help achieve that goal. The people of Russia, he said, counted on the assistance of the entire international community in eliminating the world's largest arms arsenal, which his country had inherited from the former Soviet Union.

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The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) announced today that it will be sending a high-level mission to the former Soviet Union over the weekend to begin assessments of the urgent health needs of women and children. Collaborative missions of UNICEF and World Health Organization (WHO), they include two Assistant Secretaries-General and staff from the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Atlanta-based Centres for Disease Control.

The UNICEF said that during the next twelve days, the missions would examine the maternal and child health, nutritional, and water and sanitation requirements in 14 former Soviet republics. Their assessments will provide a first view of priorities and strategy for an international response in support of urgent and medium-term needs.

Last December, as part of an international relief effort to meet immediate health care needs in Moscow, UNICEF airlifted German funded medical supplies worth $200,000 for distribution to 11 children's hospitals in the Russian capital.

* * *

The flow of resources from debtor countries to developed countries has been of concern to delegates participating in the general debate now underway at the Eighth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development UNCTAD VIII in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

Some speakers addressing the issue have stated that by providing capital in the form of debt service, debtor nations were indirectly contributing to the growth of developed countries. Others have called for debt reduction measures for middle income as well as least developed countries, and have urged industrial countries to make use of the peace dividend for development.

Switzerland's Minister and Chief of Service for Development of the Federal Office of External Affairs, Jean-Daniel Gerber, proposed that the UNCTAD be converted into a centre for economic analysis, a forum where views on economic policies and the search for alternative approaches to problems could be harmonized -- a market place of ideas on development.

Among other speakers addressing the Conference, the Director-General for the Ministry of Trade of Iraq, Farouk Salman Al-Obaidie, said the economic embargo against Iraq was "one of the greatest crimes of our time", and threatened not only Iraq but the future of mankind. He stressed that all States must exercise national responsibility to protect their independence and build the material and legal foundation of a new, secure, equitable and healthy economic order.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is sending an emergency team to Bangladesh to help the more than 60,000 refugees who have fled across the border from Myanmar. The move is in response to an urgent

appeal for help from the Government of Bangladesh, which reported that its resources were being stretched to breaking point by the influx.

High Commissioner Sadako Ogata, in a statement issued today, said she was deeply concerned about the conditions in Myanmar that were forcing people to flee at a rate of 400 to 600 a day. She expressed her gratitude to Bangladesh for its generosity towards the refugees and urged other countries in the region not to forcibly return those seeking asylum on their territory.

An initial $100,000 has been allocated from the Emergency Fund for urgently needed supplies. Within the next few days UNHCR will deploy additional field staff, a sanitation engineer and a site planner. Once a comprehensive assistance programme has been mapped out, additional amounts will be released from the Fund, followed by an appeal to donors.

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The United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO) reported today that the Government of Cuba is appealing for international assistance to help the more than 9,000 people affected by flooding in several coastal areas due to storm waves and intense rains from 6 to 10 February.

The storms damaged or destroyed more than 2,000 houses, disrupted food supplies and caused thousands of people to be evacuated. Anticipating further flooding, UNDRO is liaising with the Cuban authorities to formulate prevention and preparedness measures. It has also provided a $25,000 emergency grant and has said that it is prepared to channel contributions from donors.

The hardest hit areas include Havana, Villaclara, Ciego de Avila and Holguin.

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